

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,311,057 to Barvesten.

Applicants and Applicants' representatives thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representatives on December 10, 2003. During the interview, the rejection noted in the outstanding Office Action was discussed, and the Examiners agreed to reconsider the claims based on the arguments presented and discussed claim amendments. Arguments and claim amendments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Barvesten. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a procedure to transmit information in connection with a telephone answering service that transmits a text message containing stored information, in parallel to transmitting recorded speech messages from the calling subscriber, to the called subscriber when the called subscriber requests a wireless connection to listen to recorded speech messages. Independent Claim 9 recites similar features.

In a non-limiting example, the specification states "A-numbers are transmitted, not as previously at notification, but at the listening to the messages. This is done via SMS or USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Services Data) which uses signaling channels which

transfer information in parallel with the speech service.”¹ That is, the specification discusses not to transmit stored information upon notification, but rather to transmit stored information in parallel with the speech service.

An advantage of this approach is that “the telephone number from [a] calling subscriber is transmitted to the voice mailbox subscriber via SMS or USSD, at the same time as the subscriber listens to recorded mobile answer messages.”² Further, this approach advantageously allows the transfer of telephone numbers and other information from calling subscribers to called subscribers.³

As discussed during the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that Barvesten does not teach or suggest transmission of stored information in parallel with transmission of speech messages. Rather, Barvesten describes stored information sent to a subscriber terminal when any of the base stations detect that the mobile device (i.e., the called subscriber) is present and available,⁴ which is different than sending the stored information in parallel with transmission of speech messages, and is different than sending the stored information when the called subscriber connects to retrieve the speech messages, as in the claimed invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Barvesten does not teach or suggest “transmitting a text message containing the stored information, in parallel to transmitting recorded speech messages from the calling subscriber, to the called subscriber when the called subscriber requests a wireless connection to the mobile answer device to listen to recorded speech messages,” as in the independent claims.

¹ Specification at page 4, lines 26-30.

² Specification at page 6, lines 13-16.

³ Specification at page 6, lines 29-31.

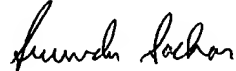
⁴ Barvesten at column 4, lines 43-57, and column 5, lines 20-58.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 1 and 9 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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